

flowing into the United States—now 8,145,000 barrels a day.

RESOLVING OUR MARITIME DISPUTES WITH CANADA

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I voted against the resolution offered by Senator MURKOWSKI condemning the Government of Canada for its failure to resolve the blockade of a United States vessel in Canadian waters.

Canada's inaction clearly was wrong. The M/V *Malaspina*, a United States passenger vessel operated by the Alaska Marine Highway System, was blockaded in port by Canadian fishing boats for 3 days. The Canadian Government not only failed to condemn the blockade of the ferry boat, it also took no action to enforce an injunction issued by a Canadian court requiring the M/V *Malaspina* to be allowed to continue its passage. The ferry was able to continue its passage only when the fishing boats voluntarily ended their blockade.

There is no doubt that the M/V *Malaspina* has the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea of Canada. Article 17 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea guarantees that right to the ships of all states.

There can also be no doubt that Canada failed to handle the illegal blockage of the United States vessel responsibly.

The amendment introduced by Senator MURKOWSKI, however, is overkill. It would grant broad authority to the President and instruct him to compel Canada to prevent any further harassment of United States shipping. The amendment hints at the use of military force to escort shipping through Canadian waters, and offers only vague guidance on how outstanding maritime disputes with Canada might ultimately be resolved.

I believe that we should not jump to coercive methods to deal with maritime disputes—especially with one of our closest allies and largest trading partners—until all other diplomatic avenues have been tried and exhausted. Moreover, as a general rule, the Senate should avoid granting the President broad authority to accomplish vague objectives.

Rather than escalating this dispute, the Senate should call on Canada to fulfill its international commitments and provide assurances that the M/V *Malaspina* episode will not be repeated. We deserve at least that much consideration from our ally to the north.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United

States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12 noon, a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 765. An act to ensure maintenance of a herd of wild horses in Cape Lookout National Seashore.

H.R. 1585. An act to allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for breast cancer research through the voluntary purchase of certain specially issued United States postage stamps, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1661. An act to implement the provisions of the Trademark Law Treaty.

H.R. 1663. An act to clarify the intent of the Congress in Public Law 93-632 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to continue to provide for the maintenance of 18 concrete dams and weirs that were located in the Emigrant Wilderness at the time the wilderness area was designated as wilderness in that Public Law.

H.R. 1853. An act to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act.

H.R. 1944. An act to provide for a land exchange involving the Warner Canyon Ski Area and other land in the State of Oregon.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 81. Concurrent resolution calling for a United States initiative seeking a just and peaceful resolution of the situation on Cyprus.

H. Con. Res. 88. Concurrent resolution congratulating the Government and the people of the Republic of El Salvador on successfully completing free and democratic elections on March 16, 1997.

H. Con. Res. 99. Concurrent resolution expressing concern over recent years in the Republic of Sierra Leone in the wake of the recent military coup d'etat of that country's first democratically elected President.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1661. An act to implement the provisions of the Trademark Law Treaty; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1663. An act to clarify the intent of the Congress in Public Law 93-632 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to continue to provide the maintenance of 18 concrete dams and weirs that were located in the Emigrant Wilderness at the time the wilderness area was designated as wilderness in that Public Law; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1853. An act to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

H.R. 1944. An act to provide for a land exchange involving the Warner Canyon Ski Area and other land in the State of Oregon; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The following concurrent resolutions were read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 81. Concurrent resolution calling for a United States initiative seeking a just and peaceful resolution of the situation on Cyprus; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 88. Concurrent resolution congratulating the Government and the people of the Republic of El Salvador on successfully completing free and democratic elections on March 16, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 99. Concurrent resolution expressing concern over recent events in the Republic of Sierra Leone in the wake of the recent military coup d'etat of that country's first democratically elected President; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 748. An act to amend the prohibition of title 18, United States Code, against financial transactions with terrorists.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-186. A resolution adopted by the East Tennessee Development District relative to the National Spallation Neutron Source; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-187. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Armed Services.

RESOLUTION

Whereas Alaska is the 49th state to enter the federal union of the United States of America and is entitled to all of the rights, privileges, and obligations that the union affords and requires; and

Whereas Alaska possesses natural resources, including energy, mineral, and human resources, vital to the prosperity and national security of the United States; and

Whereas the people of Alaska are conscious of the state's remote northern location and proximity to Northeast Asia and the Eurasian land mass, and of how the unique location places the state in a more vulnerable position than other states with regard to missiles that could be launched in Asia and Europe; and

Whereas the people of Alaska recognize the changing nature of the international political structure and evolution and proliferation of missile delivery systems and weapons of mass destruction as foreign states seek the military means to deter the power of the United States in international affairs; and

Whereas there is a growing threat to Alaska by potential aggressors in these nations and in rogue nations that are seeking nuclear weapons capability and that have sponsored international terrorism; and

Whereas a National Intelligence Estimate to assess missile threats to the United States left Alaska and Hawaii out of the assessment and estimate; and

Whereas one of the primary reasons for joining the Union of the United States of America was to gain security for the people of Alaska and for the common regulation of foreign affairs on the basis of an equitable membership in the United States federation; and